

Amendments of the Claims:

A detailed listing of all claims in the application is presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. All claims being currently amended are submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to immediate prior version of the claims. The changes in any amended claim are being shown by ~~strikethrough~~ (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A protease inhibitor comprising ~~at least one of the substances selected from (1) to (4)~~.

(1)-a redox activity protein, wherein the protease is selected from the group consisting of MMP-1 and MMP-9

~~(2) protein with a similar activity to said redox activity protein, comprising an amino acid sequence in which one or several amino acids are deleted from, replaced with, or added to said redox activity protein~~

~~(3) genes that encode (1)~~

~~(4) genes that encode (2).~~

2-6 (cancelled).